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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Gerhard COUFAL

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. [NEW]

Docket No. 2001-0462A

Filed April 23, 2001

METHOD FOR PRODUCING PURE
MELAMINE
[Corresponding to PCT/EP99/08462
Filed November 5, 1999]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO REDUCE PTO FILING FEES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution and to reduce PTO filing fees, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 through 10 as follows:

Sur B1 A1
3. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the melamine obtained according to a) or b) and present as a suspension is dissolved by feeding in an aqueous ammoniacal solution, preferably a recycled mother liquor obtained in the crystallization, the solution is optionally mixed with NaOH and, if required, allowed to dwell, the dissolved ammonia is, if required, stripped, filtration is then effected and the melamine is crystallized and isolated.

4. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the melamine melt is quenched in stage a) by means of recycled mother liquor obtained in the crystallization.